According to a first aspect the invention provides an image capture apparatus comprising:

a digital camera comprising a detector having a plurality of detection elements;

illumination means configured to emit light which illuminates the document to be captured;

A1

a read-out means configured to capture an image of the document from the detector, the captured image comprising a plurality of data values;

a memory which accommodates calibration information dependent upon the illumination profile of the light incident upon the document from the illumination means; and

a processor configured to process each of the plurality of data values in the captured image according to the calibration information to produce a final image in which the effects of non-uniformity have been substantially removed.

REMARKS

An extract from Claim 1 has been added to the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Page 2 was mistakenly not included in the filed application. Page 2 is reproduced below for the examiner's information only. Lines 1-13 of page 2 may be of interest to the examiner because they deal with the prior art. Lines 19-31 merely recite a substantial portion of claim 1.

document will be non-uniform. The areas of the document nearest the light source typically will be illuminated more than the areas of the document further from the light source.

The uneven illumination can be overcome to a large extent by using two light sources-one either side of the document. However, this increases the cost of the camera and can also increase the bulk of the assembly.

An alternative solution is to provide a custom designed reflector which produces a suitable beam pattern that results in even illumination of the document. Again, such designs are expensive to produce. Furthermore, the beam can only be optimised for a given camera to document distance. If this is varied the beam pattern will be incorrect.

An object of the present invention is to provide an image capture apparatus which ameliorates some of the problems associated with uneven illumination of a document.

According to a first aspect the invention provides an image capture apparatus comprising:

a digital camera comprising a detector having a plurality of detection elements;

illumination means configured to emit light which illuminates the document to be captured;

a read-out means configured to capture an image of the document from the detector, the captured image comprising a plurality of data values;

a memory which accommodates calibration information dependent upon the illumination profile of the light incident upon the document from the illumination means; and

a processor configured to process each of the plurality of data values in the captured image according to the calibration information to produce a

5

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application

Respectfully submitted,

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